(c) and (d) Providing domain name in local languages in a complex process involving research and application.

Overcharging of rent in Gautam Budha Nagar

†2255. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is charging monthly rent which is applicable to urban areas from all the 123 villages of Gautam Budha Nagar, instead of Rs. 120/- per month which is applicable to rural areas though the same have been declared as rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the General Manager Telephone had made announcement regarding recovering Rs. 120/- as rent from the rural subscribers and the rent of two months had also been recovered at this rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. As per the present tariff policy, rural subscribers are charged rural tariffs based on the total capacity of telephone system to which they are conneted. Accordingly, the rural subscribers of Gautam Budha Nagar (as per Census Report 2001) are being charged rural rental which varies from Rs. 110/- to Rs. 210/- per month depending upon the capacity of telephone system to which they are connected.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The announcement by General Manager, Noida pertains to options for rural subscribers to avail economy plan of BSNL with Rs. 150/- per month rental and 150 free calls.

Cheaper ISD calls

2256. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the ISD facilitators are providing cheapest international call to Europe, America, Singapore etc. at Rs. 4 to 5 per minute to the consumers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are also considering to provide cheaper call rates the consumers through MTNL/ BSNL like other telephone companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Tariffs for International Long Distance (ILD) calls are forborne and the service providers have flexibility in fixing charges for calls to various countries. These charges differ from Plan to Plan, operator to operator and also depend upon the counteries to which calls are made. As per information received from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the currently available ILD call charges for various destinations levied from basic services including those offered by MTNL are given in the enclosed Statement (*see* below). The rates offered by cellular mobile operators for international calls are generally higher. These rates are applicable in most of the tariff plans.

MTNL provides lowers call charge of Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/- per minute for calls to Europe, America, Singapore etc. through its Bol Anmol Internet Telephony Service.

Statement

ILD Charges currently available in market for Basic Service

BSNL		MTNL	
Country	Rs. per minute	Country	Rs. per minute
United Kingdom	7.20	United Kingdom	9.00
USA and Canada	7.20	USA and Canada	9.00
Rest of Europe	9.60	South East Asia	9.00
South East Asia	9.60	Gulf Countries	18.00
SAARC countries	18.00	Africa	18.00
Sri Lanka	12.00	Rest of the World	18.00
Rest of the World	18.00		

Tata			Bharti		
Country	Delhi & Mumbai	Other areas	Country	Delhi	Other areas
USA, UK & Canada	9.60	7.20	United Kingdom	7.99	6.99
Europe	18.00	9.60	USA and Canada	7.99	6.99
Africa	18.00	18.00	Rest of Europe	7.99	8.99
Gulf	18.00	18.00	South East Asia	7.99	8.99
SE Asian Countries	9.60	9.60	Gulf	15.99	15.99
SAARC Countries	18.00	18.00	Africa	15.99	15.99
New Zealand	18.00	18.00	rest of the World	15.99	15.99
			SAARC & other neighbouring countries	15.99	15.99

HFCL		Reliance	
Country	Rs. per minute	Country	Rs. per minute
USA, UK & Canada	5.00	America including USA & Canada	5.00
Europe, South East Asia	7.00	Europe	7.00
Rest of the World	14.00	Rest of the World	14.00

V.R.S. in DoT

2257. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to cut flab in Department of Telecommunication in view of distribution of its function to TRAI and other agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether VRS is being considered as one of the options to be made available to employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?